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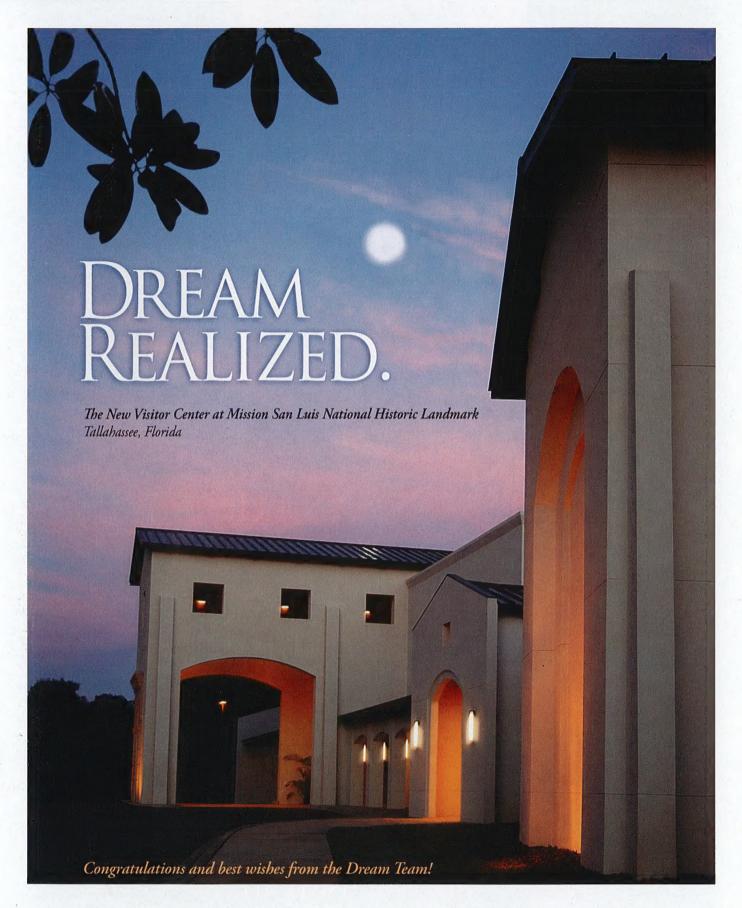
BELIEVES IN THE

COMMON GOOD

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Mission San Luis



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EXCLUSIVE CATERER TO MISSION SAN LUIS



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Mission San Juis An American Treasure

Mission San Luis is a program of the Florida Department of State, Office of Cultural, Historical, and Information Programs, Division of Historical Resources, Bureau of Archaeological Research.

Florida Department of State

Kurt S. Browning Secretary of State

Friends of Mission San Luis, Inc.

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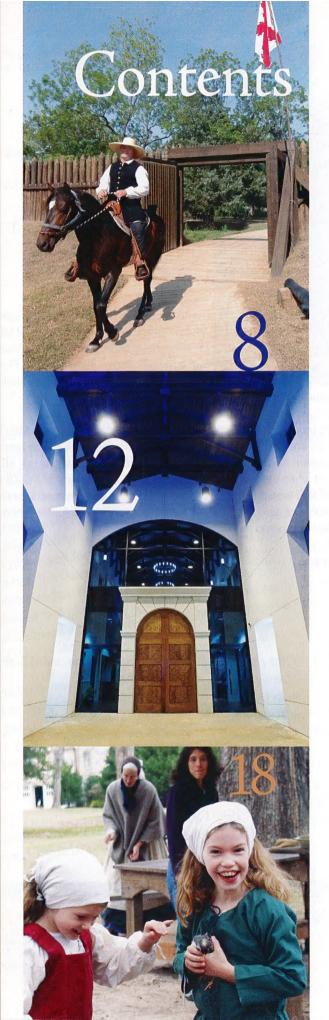
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From the Governor

Gov. Charlie Crist marks the opening of the new Visitor Center. Page 7

The Place and Its History

Take a tour of the Mission's past and get a look at its present. Page 8

The New Visitor Center

This showpiece now stands as the gateway to the site. Page 12

The Mission's Missions

Education, research and just plain fun are all part of a day's work at the Mission. Page 18

How to Reach Us

Find the details on the site's location, contact information, and more. Page 20

The Friends of Mission San Luis

This group helps the Mission continue its research, expand its programs, and spread the word. Page 22

On the cover

Artist Erick Villanueva of Orlando carved decorative panels for the entry to the Mission's new Visitor Center. The doors, which are made of plantation-raised Honduran mahogany, feature plants, animals, and symbols that evoke early life at San Luis. Cover photo by Ray

Stanyard.



EMBAJADA DE ESPAÑA EN WASHINGTON

EL EMBAJADOR DE ESPAÑA



I would like to express my sincere congratulations to the State of Florida, Mission San Luis, and the Friends of Mission San Luis on the occasion of the grand opening of the Mission's new Visitor Center. San Luis has been an integral part of Florida's rich Spanish

colonial heritage for the past 300 years, and this magnificent addition marks a new milestone in its history.

We are proud and honored to see how the people of Florida and the Friends of Mission San Luis are working to preserve our common heritage and to restore the Mission so that present and future generations can better understand our shared history. At a moment when we are approaching the 500th anniversary of Ponce de León's naming of Florida, I would like to express the Spanish Government's desire to participate in this important celebration. I am sure this occasion will further enhance the friendship between Spain and the United States.

With my best wishes,

ZIVC

Jorge Dezcallar de Mazarredo Spanish Ambassador to the United States





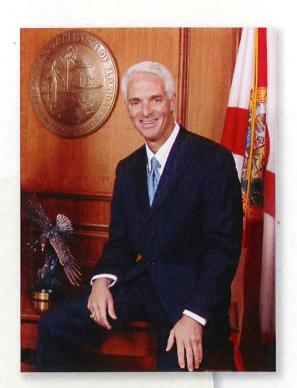
The Governor's Welcome

Governor Charlie Crist commemorates this new chapter in the Mission's life



CHARLIE CRIST GOVERNOR

December 2009



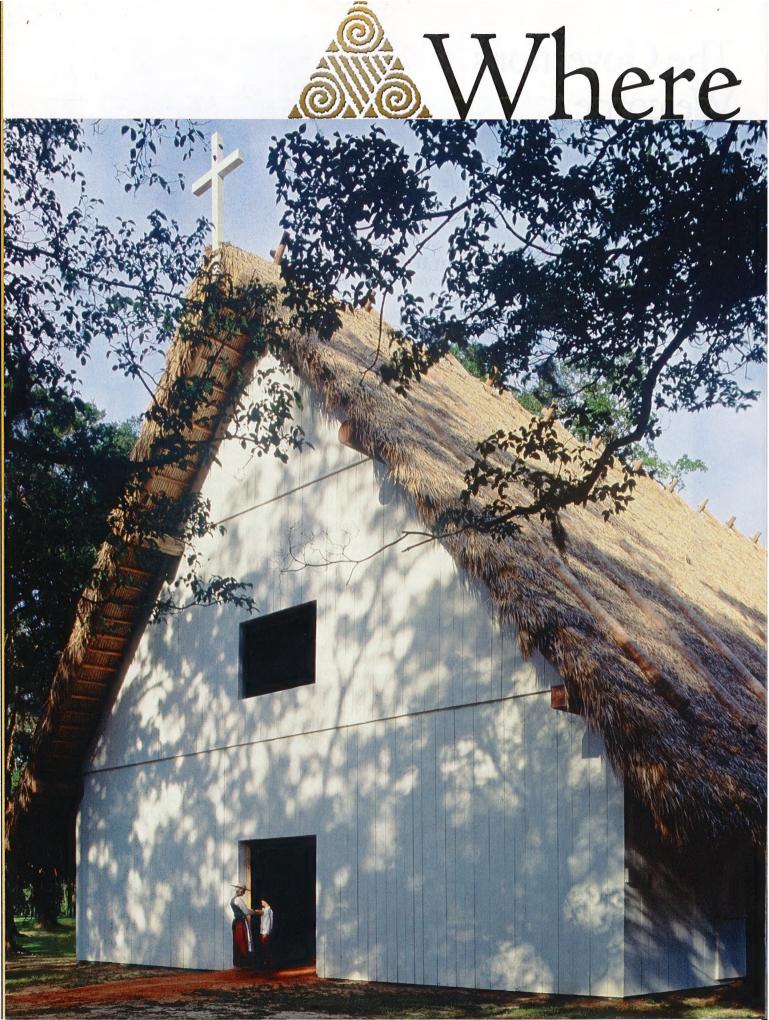
It gives me great pleasure to commemorate a new chapter in the 350-year My Fellow Floridians: history of Mission San Luis. Located in the heart of Tallahassee, San Luis was the Spaniards' western capital and the paramount village of the Apalachee Indians in

Is is one of only two missions in Florida never to be lost — the other is Nombre de the 17th century. Dios in St. Augustine. Mission San Luis was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1960 — the highest distinction for historic places in the United States. In 1983, the Florida Legislature had the vision to purchase 50 acres of Mission San Luis. Subsequent legislatures also had the wisdom to acquire adjacent parcels that were part of the original Mission and to gradually rebuild this colonial capital. As a result of these efforts, Mission San Luis was awarded the prestigious Preserve America Award by the President in 2006.

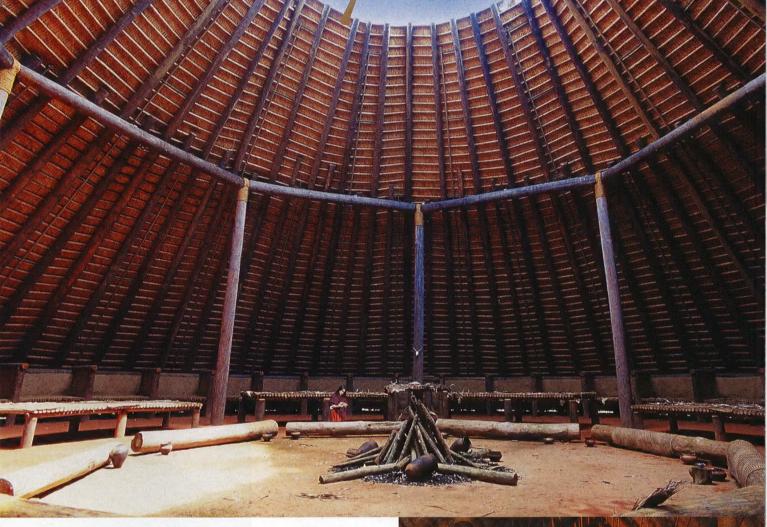
The State of Florida has had many partners in this ambitious venture. The National Endowment for the Humanities is a long-standing contributor, awarding six major grants to Mission San Luis for research, interpretation and, most recently, \$1,000,000 to create an endowment. The Mission has also been blessed with the support of countless individuals, businesses, elected officials and organizations that wanted to ensure that the story of San Luis is not lost to future generations.

Please join me in celebrating the opening of the new Visitor Center, the latest achievement in the Mission's distinguished history. I hope you and your families enjoy time at this beloved Florida landmark in the near future and for many years to come.

War aux



History Lives



The original Mission settlement, now largely reconstructed, dates to the 1600s

ore than a century before the first Spanish mission was established in California, Mission San Luis prospered as the western capital of Spain's network of military and religious outposts that stretched across Upper Florida from the Atlantic Ocean to the Apalachicola River.

When the masterfully crafted entryway to Mission San Luis' new Visitor Center swings open, it will bring a heightened awareness of our colonial past that has been 350 years in the making.

In 1650, San Luis was on the frontier of Spain's colonial empire. The Apalachee Indians, known as "Florida's fiercest

Around the site you will visit a variety of carefully reconstructed buildings such as the church, facing page, and council house, above. A commemorative Mass is celebrated in keeping with the services that were held here in the 17th century.



The council house, above, is covered with more than 100,000 palm fronds. At right, the Spanish village offers a glimpse into daily life at San Luis.

and most wealthy tribe," had a long, and not always friendly, history with Europeans. Earlier contacts with the Pánfilo de Narváez and Hernando de Soto expeditions had resulted in bloodshed on both sides. But by 1608, however, Apalachee leaders went to St.

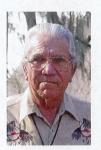
Augustine to request friars. The first missions in the region were established in 1633, and soon thereafter Apalachee was characterized as the most thoroughly Christianized province in La Florida.

Mission San Luis was the Spaniards' western capital and the paramount village of the Apalachees. It

was distinct from other missions since it was home to the only significant Spanish settlement beyond St.



A communal meal is shared at the Mission.



Gilmer Bennett, Chief of the **Apalachee** Indians, is descended from the Mission's early residents.

Augustine. San Luis was also one of the few places where it appears that natives and Spaniards coexisted in relative harmony for nearly three generations and religious conversion was voluntary.

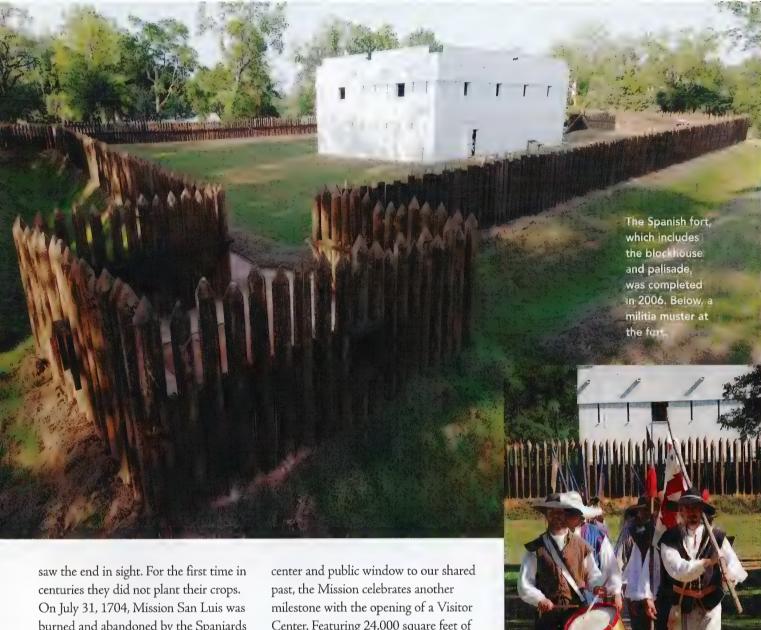
While English colonists to the north limited their interactions with natives to trade and military activities, Spaniards at San Luis were integrated with the local native peoples. Franciscan friars instructed the Apalachee Indians in the new faith. Native cowboys tended herds of cattle and pigs on Spanish ranches, while Apalachee farmers harvested squash, corn, wheat, and other crops. But perhaps the most distinctive feature of the Spanish colonies was that the Crown encouraged intermarriage between Spaniards and Indians. This quickly led to a new colonial culture that incorporated both native and European traditions.

Mission San Luis was more prosperous than most frontier settlements. Spanish entrepreneurs living at San Luis shipped their surplus foods, hides, and animals from St. Marks to St. Augustine or directly to Cuba - an international port - where they generated handsome profits. In Havana, these Spanish merchants were able to acquire exotic imports from South America, Asia and Europe and bring them back to the Mission.



At its peak, as many as 1,400 natives and hundreds of Spaniards lived together at San Luis. They worshipped in the same European-inspired church, and they constructed their public buildings on the same central plaza. Eventually, they all sought refuge in the palisaded fort when the alarm sounded.

By the early 1700s, after a devastating series of British-led Indian raids from the Carolinas, the residents of San Luis



saw the end in sight. For the first time in centuries they did not plant their crops. On July 31, 1704, Mission San Luis was burned and abandoned by the Spaniards and their Apalachee allies. Long thought to have vanished from history after their 1704 dispersal, about 300 Apalachee descendants revealed themselves several years ago and declared that reports of their demise were premature at best.

And why have they kept silent all this time?

"We didn't die out. We hid out, to survive," said their tribal chief, Gilmer Bennett, an honored guest in 2004 at the 300th commemoration of the Mission's end. Only now, he added, was "it safe to come out of the woods and say who we are."

Painstakingly restored over the past 26 years both as an archaeological research

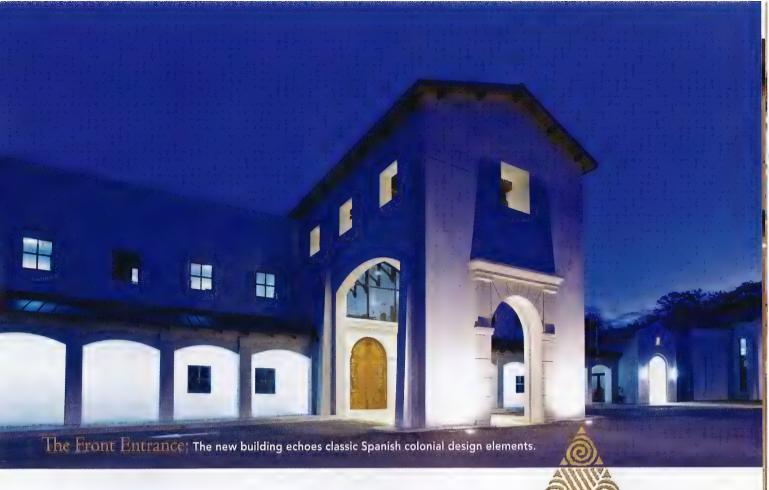
center and public window to our shared past, the Mission celebrates another milestone with the opening of a Visitor Center. Featuring 24,000 square feet of exhibit space, theater, classrooms, gift shop, offices, and 250-person banquet hall, it marks yet another step in this ongoing investigation of those who came before us.

- Andy Lindstrom



Artist Ed Jonas brings the site's history to life in a series of well-known oil paintings. Prints of his paintings are available at the Mission.





Visitors Welcome

The Mission's new Visitor Center is a state-of-the-art facility with a banquet hall, exhibit space, a shop, a theater, classrooms, and offices

n the forward edge of Spain's 17th-century La Florida colony, Mission San Luis played a leading part in the economic, military, and religious life of Apalachee Province. With its new Visitor Center, that role will be reprised as the reconstructed Mission once again rises in the heart of our modern city. Along with public interpretation and education programs, the center promises to be an ideal setting for business meetings, receptions, and banquets.

"It's an absolutely idyllic place for people to gather," said David B. Ramsay, Chairman of the Friends of Mission San Luis, Inc. "This beautiful National



Historic Landmark has a fascinating history, unique things to see and do, and an incredibly dedicated corps of staff and volunteers. I don't know any place like it in the state."

Ivan Johnson of Johnson Peterson Architects, Inc., the lead architect in the project, said that his vision for the center – funded in 2006 by the state Legislature – was to create what he called "a modern extrapolation of a mission-style building."

To that end, his project manager John Lane sought to layer contemporary building materials with "tried and true period pieces" to reflect the structure's colonial Spanish design. Careful attention to detail in features such as the colonnades, ceiling beams, and balcony rails add to its cathedral-like atmosphere.

"I particularly love the placement of the building," Lane said. "Framed by two majestic oaks and leading directly to the 17th-century village, it truly speaks to the period."



A portal frames the approach from the Visitor Center into the historic village.







Meeting rooms and classrooms: The second floor of the Visitor Center features convenient, furnished spaces for small groups. For information on facilities rental, please see Page 20.

Spanish chocolates to one-of-a-kind

Swarovski cross inspired by one found

jewelry pieces including a crystal





With wide exterior colonnades, patios, and a balcony, the Visitor Center is a sanctuary nestled into a beautiful landscape.

archaeologically and featured on the PBS channel series "The History Detectives."

Farther along, the 125-seat SunTrust Theatre features an orientation and short film on the Mission's history. Available for rent, the acoustically pure theater makes an ideal setting for ensemble performances, films, and presentations.

The nearby exhibit gallery showcases artifacts discovered during ongoing excavations at San Luis, as well as materials of the period. For the grand opening Calynne and Lou Hill have loaned Spanish colonial works of art including religious statuary and paintings, similar to those that once adorned the San Luis Mission church.

As a resource to the community, the Mission Room provides a unique setting for receptions, banquets and other special events. With a private entrance, courtyard, restrooms, and warming kitchen, it can accommodate more than 250 guests with catering by the University Center Club.

Finally, two classroom spaces will house the Mission's educational programs and camps. When not in use, they will also be available to the community for a rental fee.

"Mission San Luis played a pivotal role in Florida's rich history," says Dr. Bonnie McEwan, Mission San Luis' executive director and a driving force in its restoration program. "Our new Visitor Center affords us the opportunity to better share that story with the public and be a significant part of our community's future."

Andy Lindstrom



A Place of Many Missions



The modern Mission provides a myriad of opportunities for education, research, and recreation

rom reenactors to researchers, Mission San Luis proudly carries out its mandate to preserve the site's cultural assets while integrating them into contemporary life.

Volunteers like James Levy, Dr. Charlton "Skeeter" Prather, and Alvis Neville don the authentic garb of residents for special events at the Mission. Catholic priests such as Father Robert Young continue the annual tradition of blessing Tallahassee's animals while Bishop John Ricard presides over a commemorative Mass each December.

Professional archaeologists and historians conduct meticulous research which has been used to build the rigorously authentic reconstructions and develop the Mission's year-round educational programs. Thanks to this unique blend of talent and dedication, Mission San Luis was the recipient of the coveted Preserve America Presidential Award in 2006.

As Florida's only reconstructed mission, San Luis' multicultural history has become increasingly relevant in underscoring the contributions of Spaniards and Native Americans to our richly diverse national character.

including day

activities.

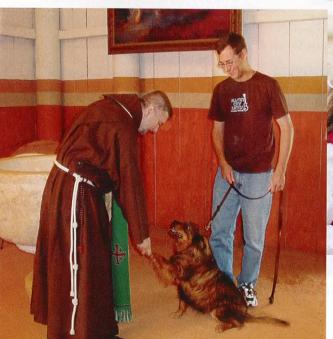
camps and special



Along with its impressive array of reconstructed mission-era buildings, the Mission offers livinghistory programs, tours, special events, and educational camps throughout the year. Working side by side with professionals, students can learn the basic principles of archaeology, history, and a variety of both Native American and Hispanic crafts, music, and dance. Bilingual exhibits allow visitors to actually "touch" history in recreated archaeological digs, hands-on drawers, and artifact puzzles.

"At Mission San Luis, the entire site is a classroom," Director Bonnie McEwan said. "Our overarching goal is to instill appreciation and respect for cultural differences past and present."

- Andy Lindstrom



At left, Father Robert Young greets Ryan Wheeler's dog Embley at an annual Blessing of Animals.

Staff and volunteers bring history to life. From the top right down are Karin Stanford. Museum Program Supervisor; site blacksmith Charlton "Skeeter" Prather; and sisters Hannah and Rachel Burda.

ow to reach us

Where the Mission Is

Mission San Luis is on a 65-acre site at 2100 W. Tennessee St., also known as U.S. 90, in Tallahassee, Fla.

Hours

The site is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. The Mission is closed on New Year's Day, Easter, July 4, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day.

Admission

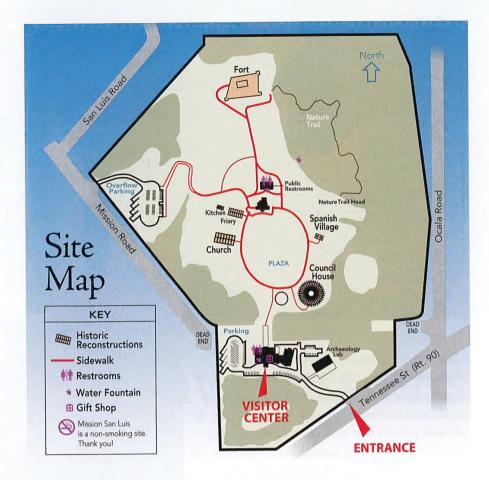
Admission to the site is free through Dec. 31, 2009. After that date, admission will be \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors, \$2 for children ages 6 to 17, free for activeduty military personnel with ID, and free for members of Friends of Mission San Luis.

Questions?

Please call our main line at 850.245.6406 or email us at programs@missionsanluis. org or visit www.missionsanluis.org for information about educational programs and volunteering or if you have any other auestions.

Educational programs

The Mission offers lifelong learning opportunities for all ages. For children, there are educational site tours, outreach programs, day camps, and birthday parties. All ages can enjoy workshops, guided tours, lectures, and presentations.



Volunteering

Volunteers are vital to the success of public programs and research activities at San Luis. If you are looking for a place where your time and expertise will be valued, please call to schedule an interview.

Questions about Mission Room rentals

For information on scheduling events in the Mission Room or other Visitor Center areas, please call the University Center Club at 850.644.8532. Picnic areas on site are available at no charge with

paid admission to Mission San Luis.

Getting Here, by Car

From I-10 Eastbound:

- Take I-10 E toward Tallahassee.
- Merge onto FL-263 S / Capital Circle NW via Exit 196 toward the Regional
- Turn left onto US-90 E / FL-10 E / West Tennessee Street.
- Turn left at the Mission entrance at 2100 W. Tennessee St.

From I-10 Westbound:

- Take I-10 W toward Tallahassee.
- Merge onto N Monroe St/US-27 S/ FL-63 S via Exit 199 toward Tallahassee.
- Turn right onto US-90 E / FL-10 E / W Tennessee Street.
- Turn right at the Mission entrance at 2100 W. Tennessee St.

Getting Here, by Air and Bus

Tallahassee is served by Tallahassee Regional Airport (TLH). Call 850.891.7802 or visit www.flytallahassee.com to learn more. For bus service, contact Greyhound Lines at 1-800-231-2222. StarMetro is Tallahassee's city bus service; contact them at www.talgov.com/starmetro.



You are Invited to Preserve a Legacy...

The Spain Florida Foundation
500 years congratulates
Mission San Luis on the inauguration
of the new Visitor Center that offers the
opportunity to explore the lives of the
Apalachee Indians and the Spaniards.

Visitors will discover that at Mission San Luis two different visions of the world was shared in unique and peaceful ways.

The Spain-Florida Foundation 500 years is a private, non profit organization created to celebrate the V Centennial of Florida and highlight the transcendence of the Spanish legacy in the United States.

This is an exceptional opportunity to rewrite the history of the United States.

We're looking forward to the next 500 years!





España-Florida Foundation 500 years 355 Alhambra Circle, Suite 801 Coral Gables, FL 33134 (786) 364 8472 Spain-florida.org info@spain-florida.org

1492

1513

1528

1539

1559

1565

1607

1620

Columbus Discovers the New World Ponce de León Arrival Narváez Expedition de Soto Expedition Tristán de Luna Expedition Founding of St Augustine Stablishment of Jamestown

Plymouth Colony Established



Many thanks to Mission San Luis and the Florida Department of State for allowing Allstate Construction and our team of subcontractors to be a part of this beautiful project!























